LIBR

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. R. W. Markham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

Mr. L. H. Poole, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I.

Public Health Clerk :

Miss B. Powell, to 31st April, 1948.

Mrs. K. M. Yarnold, from 1st June, 1948.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year, 1948.

In accordance with the procedure adopted last year, at the direction of the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections :—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
"D" Housing.
"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.
"F" Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

MAIN OCCUPATIONS OF THE AREA.

The principal industries comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, blackplate and bright strip, cast iron hinges and holloware, chains for many purposes, steel wire braid and tape, wire cables, fans, forges, furnaces, woodwork, valves and valve accessories, and old-established vinegar works, and several firms engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil.

SECTION "A"

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	2,542
Rateable Value	44,453
Sum represented by one Penny Rate	£172
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1948)	9,376

Live Births

	Male	*Female*	*Totals* **1948**	*Totals* **1947**
Legitimate	118	81	199	183
Illegitimate	3	7	10	8
	121	88	209	191

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population was for the Urban District	22.3	20.5
The Birth Rate for England and Wales was for the same period	17.9	20.5

Still Births	*Male*	*Female*	**1948**	**1947**
Legitimate	–	2	2	5
Illegitimate	–	–	–	–
	–	2	2	5

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population was	0.21	0.55
The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population for England and Wales was, for the same period	0.42	0.53

Deaths.	*Male*	*Female*	**1948**	**1947**
	46	35	81	93

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was	8.64	10.16
The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was	10.8	12.0
Maternity Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was	*Nil*	*Nil*
Maternity Mortality Rate in England and Wales for the same period was	1.02	1.17

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Male	*Female*	**1948**	**1947**
Legitimate	2	3	5	6
Illegitimate	–	–	–	–
	2	3	5	6

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was.....	23.9	31.4
The Infantile Mortality rate for the same period for England and Wales was	34	41
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	–	–
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	–	–
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	–	–

Causes of Death (including Transferable Deaths).

Ref. No.	*Males*	*Females*
6—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	–
8—Syphilitic Disease	1	–
12—Ac. irf. Enceph.	–	1
14—Cancer of Stomach	3	1
15—Cancer of Breast	–	2
16—Cancer of all other sites	7	4
17—Diabetes	2	1
18—Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	5

19—Heart Disease	8	5
20—Circulatory Diseases	1	–
21—Bronchitis	4	–
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	–	1
24—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	–
27—Digestive Diseases	–	3
31—Premature Births	–	1
32—Malformation and Congenital Diseases	1	2
34—Road Traffic Accident	3	–
35—Other violent causes	1	1
36—All other causes	7	8
	46	35

SECTION "B"

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Services. Laboratory facilities were provided by the County Laboratory, Worcester. With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, this work, with the exception of the examination of food, milk and water, was taken over by the new Public Health Laboratory provided at the Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Services. Ambulance facilities were provided by the Council's ambulance lent by the British Red Cross Society, and a rota of volunteer drivers and attendants. On the 5th July, the Ambulance Service was taken over by the County Council as "Local Health Authority," and based at Kidderminster.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding areas with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year	386
Women delivered	392
Infants born alive	384
Infants Deaths	7
Infants stillborn	8
Maternal deaths	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	5
Cases of Opthalmia Neonatorum	Nil

Infectious Diseases. Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. 6 cases of infectious diseases from Stourport Urban district were admitted during the year.

Tuberculosis. Arrangements for the treatment of cases of T.B. were made by the County Council. Out-patient treatment being undertaken at the Kidderminster Dispensary, and In-patients at Knightwick Sanatorium. As from the 5th July, the Hospitals were transferred to the Midland Regional Hospital Board and with regard to T.B. the prevention and after-care only remain the responsibility of the County Council.

Venereal Diseases. The treatment of Venereal Disease, formerly carried out under the direction of the Worcester County Council, is continued at the following hospitals, under the National Health Service :

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary; and
other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home. Prior to the 5th July, the Nursing in the Home service was continued on similar lines to those contained in last year's report. When this Service was taken over by the local Health Authority, the following scheme was brought into operation :

(*i*) Three Nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and general nursing were provided with a car.

(*ii*) A Health Visitor was appointed for the district, who attends school medical inspections, undertakes treatment of minor ailments in the schools, visits cases of tuberculosis and mental defects. She visits infants and children under five in their homes and attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in the District.

Clinics. Stourport.—An Ante-natal Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, in charge of Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Mackie, and Matron respectively.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Friday in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Clinic. Children under five are immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic.

Areley Kings.—An Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. There is ample for the needs of the area and minor mains extensions have been provided to meet the needs of

housing development in the Walshes Farm Estate Area. In order to provide a more satisfactory supply to houses in the Wilden Top area, it is proposed to extend the main at an early date.

Samples taken regularly for chemical and bacteriological analyses have given satisfactory results. The water was found to be satisfactory, both in quantity and quality and there is no plumbo-solvent action. There are 2,391 dwelling houses connected to the town water mains, affording a supply for some 8,574 persons. In addition approximately 230 dwelling houses obtain their supply from wells catering for about 805 persons.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, the disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the Oldington Sewage Disposal Works, used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley. With the exception of certain outlying properties and the Titton district, the whole of the area is provided with main drainage. A notable exception is the Wilden School, but it is hoped that the Education Authority will undertake the conversion at an early date.

SECTION "D"

Housing.

Progress has continued on Walshes Farm No. 1 Housing Site, a further 39 traditional type houses having been completed during the year. In addition, a contract for the erection of 50 "Wates" prefabricated houses was undertaken and operations were commenced in June. The remaining 36 "Orlit" prefabricated houses were completed during the year.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year 1948.

Number of Council Houses in the District	551
Number of Council Houses requisitioned by the Council	7
Number of Applicants for Council Houses	441
Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings	268
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list	1760

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation still remaining in the district, 67 Demolition Orders have been made, and no Undertakings given during the year. The Housing Committee of the Council were strongly recommended to commence re-housing families from these properties. Of these familes, 9 were re-housed during the year.

The problem presented by the Titton area of Bungalows, shacks and caravans remains unchanged. Owing to the continued severe shortage of housing accommodation, little can be done to improve conditions in this area. The very worst cases will be dealt with in rotation by action under the Housing Acts, as and when possible.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Ice Cream Manufacture.

All premises wishing to continue the manufacture or sale of ice cream were inspected during the year, and recommendations made where necessary before licences were issued.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 18 samples of milk, and 7 samples of other foods were taken for analysis during the year. These were all found to be satisfactory.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :

1.	Pre-School Children	138
2.	School Children	16
3.	Re-inforcing doses	79
		233

At the end of 1948, the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0—5 and 5—14 years were 52.8 and 85.5 respectively.

There was one case of diphtheria notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

Only one case of this disease occurred in the district, and the patient has made a fair recovery.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown on the following table.

Diseases	*Total Cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Diphtheria	1	1	–
Scarletina	12	–	–
Scarlet Fever	19	3	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	–
Acute Primary Pneumonia	5	–	–
Measles	20	–	–
Whooping Cough	66	–	–
Meningitis	1	1	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	–	–

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
25	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
35	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
45	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and over	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS	6	3	1	–	2	–	–	–

Conclusion.

In spite of the improvement in the number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year, it can be seen that this remains a very serious problem. It is hoped that the Council will allow nothing to hinder them in their efforts to speed up the erection of suitable houses. Progress made so far shows that Stourport-on-Severn compares very favourably with other similar districts, and this should be an encouragement to further efforts.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year 850 visits of inspection and re-inspection were paid to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but great difficulty was again experienced in getting work done owing to the shortage of labour and material.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Details of the various notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous years, inspections and the supply of disinfectants has been continued.

Action was also taken in other cases where bug-infestation was met with or reported.

Refuse Scavenging.

This work has again been carried out by the Council's workmen and the details are as follows:

Dry Refuse		*Liquid Refuse*	
Dust Bins emptied	108,156	Cesspools emptied	94
Loads removed	842	Midden semptied	34
		Pails emptied	11,480
		Loads removed	751

The refuse has continued to be disposed of by tipping.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

Salvage of Waste Material.

The following are the details of the materials collected and disposed of during the year :—

	Tons	*Cwts.*
Waste Paper	64	18
Metal	11	4
Rags and Sacking	7	8
Bottles	17	5

Bones		12
Rope and String		12
Total	101	18

The value of the above was £575 11s. 0d., as compared with £325 9s. 5d. for 1947.

Closet Conversions.

The conversion of pail closets and middens to the water carriage system in the Areley Kings and Wilden areas which was commenced towards the end of 1947 has been continued and completed. It is estimated that some 300 such closets have been dealt with.

Water Supply.

The consumption of water for all purposes as recorded by the meters at Mount Pleasant during the year was 180,347,000 gallons. This was a decrease of 5,106,000 gallons as compared with the previous year.

A further 86 houses were connected to the mains. The supply continued to be of excellent quality and no shortage was experienced. neither was it necessary to impose any restrictions as to its use.

Housing.

Details of this subject are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The inspection of unfit houses was continued, and 67 Demolition Orders were made in respect of same. Until a larger number of new houses are available it will be impossible to rehouse the occupants for some very considerable time.

Rodent Control.

Eight cases of rat infestation were dealt with. These were only of a minor nature and were successfully dealt with by baiting. Attention was given to the Council's refuse tip and the main sewage pumping station.

Canal Boats.

During the year, visits were paid to the canal and basins, when 13 boats were examined. The boats were found to be in a satisfactory condition in respect of repair, cleanliness, ventilation, etc. All the occupants appeared to be of a strong, robust type. There were no cases of infectious disease notified as occurring amongst persons using the boats. No applications for registration were received during the year.

Food Inspection.

This matter has received attention during the year. In addition to the usual quantities of meat examined, large quantities of tinned milk, fruit, fish, etc., have been surrendered and destroyed.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE,
Sanitary Inspector.

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